

Town of Amherst
Recycling and Refuse Management Committee
5/14/2015

Attending: Arnie Alper, Brenda Kennedy Davies, Laurel Dickey, Cristina Cox Fernandes, Craig Goff, Susan Morrello, John Root

February 26 minutes amended and approved.

Staff Liaison

Lots of unknowns. Are we officially supposed to have one? Should there be a DPW employee? Are they required to come to our meetings? Can we request a specific person? Arnie will find out the details. General consensus is that we need one.

Downtown Recycling

Brenda reported that there are now seven recycling containers with signage around town. Phase 2 is for recycling cages to be placed in the eight town parks. Arnie and Brenda will be meeting with Alan Snow to figure out how to move this forward. Funding for more cages and signage will be discussed at the meeting.

There are now trash barrels at all the bus stops and there is a new recycling container at Mill River Recreation Area. Also, a trash collector has been hired by the DPW; this person is responsible for emptying the town trash barrels. Committee is unsure whether that includes emptying the town recycling containers as well. Some members have noted that they have seen a new town trash truck around town.

Sustainability Festival

This was a lot of work. It would be helpful to have more volunteers help out with the textile and Styrofoam collections so committee members could be at the table to answer questions. All the information on the table needs to be better organized and possibly updated for next year.

Green Team

Sue suggested that we form a “green team” from members of the community who are interested in environmental issues much like the one Northampton has. We would collect emails and then would be able to ask for volunteers for events and also use it to disseminate information. Arnie will ask about procedures for getting an email address for this purpose. Laurel volunteered to check the email messages weekly and to write a press release. Brenda suggested that we all start collecting names of people/friends interested in the “green team”. Laurel will set up a Google doc for us to enter contact info.

Stephanie Ciccarello may have volunteers to be added to the green team list. Other sources for recruiting emails will be environmental clubs at the local colleges and Amherst High School as well as the League of Women Voters. Susan Waite may have a list of individuals as well.

Taste of Amherst

The committee is not willing to take on the orchestration of composting/recycling at The Taste of Amherst. It was felt that there were too many things for the committee to handle. Sue will meet with Susan on Monday to make a list of items that need to be done to organize and support composting/recycling at the Taste.

Next meeting: Thursday, June 2, 2015, 4:30 pm